
¿QUÉ DEBO SABER ANTES DE VIAJAR A ESTADOS UNIDOS O FUERA DEL TERRITORIO?

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LO QUE DEBEMOS SABER CON RESPECTO A LAS REGULACIONES FEDERALES BAJO EL ***8 CFR 214.2(F)***

- El ***8 CFR 214.2(f)*** es el artículo que establece las regulaciones federales relacionadas a la clasificación de visa F1 y M1.
- SEVIS no ha emitido actualizaciones o guías específicas que impacten estas regulaciones federales que rigen la estadía de estudiantes internacionales en territorio estadounidense; sin embargo, se han emitido recodatorios de mejores prácticas al viajar.
- Las órdenes ejecutivas del president no han cambiado la vigencia de las regulaciones federales, pero sí ha cambiado la percepción general y la práctica de las agencias de ICE y CBP en su llamado a la aplicación de la ley (enforcement).
- Compartimos información pertinente y hacemos las siguientes recomendaciones para ayudar a nuestros estudiantes, investigadores y docentes internacionales a tomar decisiones informadas.



MAINTAINING STATUS STAYS THE SAME

- To maintain F1 or J1 status, you must enroll full-time each term. Full-time status is defined as at least 12 credits/term for undergraduates, and at least 9 credits/term for graduate students.
 - If you have any questions about your registration status, please contact your department chairs (undergraduates), your academic advisors or the graduate school (graduates).
 - Remember: If you are registered less than full-time, this will influence your immigration (F-1) status!
 - There are exceptions to the full-time requirement. If your reason is valid, it will be properly documented and approved by the P/DSO. Failure to obtain prior authorization from the P/DSO will cause the student to fall out of status. If you have already lost student status by not enrolling full-time in a previous semester, you should make an appointment to discuss your case with your P/DSO and your academic advisor.
 - Engaging in unauthorized work on or off campus is **not allowed** unless otherwise authorized by DHS (EAD card). If not authorized you will fall out of status.
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TRAVEL REMINDERS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS

SEVIS MARCH 11, 2025

Ensure you have all required travel documents. You'll need these to re-enter the United States after your trip:

- Valid passport
 - Student visa stamped in your passport
 - Signed Form *I-20 for F1* / *DS-2019 for J1* + appointment letter
 - Registration – Current course program (*F1*)
 - Financial evidence - Solvencia económica (*F1*)
 - OPT– EAD card + Employment letter or contract
 - Most recent [I-94](#)
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TRAVELING WHILE OPT OR STEM-OPT ARE PENDING

- **Before program end date** on your I-20: Carry the required documents as mentioned.
- **After the program end date** on your I-20: ***We DO NOT recommend traveling*** after your program end date and while your OPT application is pending. You need to monitor your mailbox for requests from USCIS.
- If you receive an RFE (Request for Evidence), you will not be able to react by a specific deadline if you're not present in the U.S.
- If you must travel, carry a copy of your receipt notice as proof of OPT application. If you do receive approval while you're abroad, EAD cards should not be mailed internationally. Rather, ask someone to scan you a copy of your OPT or STEM-OPT EAD card.



TRAVELING WITH H1B

- Valid passport
 - H1b visa stamped in your passport
 - I-797 Approval Notice
 - Employment letter or contract, stating your duties and salary
 - Most recent [I-94](#)
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WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO TRAVEL INSIDE THE US?

- Places that are considered within the U.S. include the islands of Hawai'i, the other U.S. states, and some U.S. territories (Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). American Samoa is a U.S. territory but has its own immigration system for visitors.
 - You will not pass through immigration when traveling within the U.S. However, to board a commercial transport such as a plane or ship, you will need to show an official government-issued identification document such as your passport, or a Real-ID compliant U.S. State ID or U.S. driver's license and go through TSA.
 - We recommend that students bring their original immigration documents when traveling off the island, including a *valid passport and Form I-20 or DS-2019* in the unlikely event that you need to show proof of lawful immigration status in the U.S.
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POSSIBLE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS OR BANS

- While the administration has not announced any travel restrictions or bans, news reports suggest that it will likely categorize nations into three groups: *Red, Orange, and Yellow*, with restrictions ranging from barred entry to a more rigorous visa application process.
 - Si bien la administración no ha anunciado restricciones ni prohibiciones de viaje, los informes de prensa sugieren que probablemente clasificará a los países en tres grupos: **Rojo**, **Naranja** y **Amarillo**, con restricciones que van desde la prohibición de entrada hasta un proceso de solicitud de visa más riguroso.
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CONTIGUOUS TERRITORIES AND ADJACENT ISLANDS

- There are a few countries that you can travel to (for less than 30 days) and return to the US with an expired F-1 or J-1 visa. This process is called "automatic revalidation." These countries are called the adjacent islands and contiguous territories.
 - ***HOWEVER***, students from some countries are ***NOT*** eligible for automatic revalidation. Please refer to this [website](#) to see if you are eligible, and for more travel information.
 - The contiguous territories are: Canada and Mexico
 - The adjacent islands are: Saint Pierre, Miquelon, The Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bermuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, The Winward and Leeward Islands, Trinidad, Martinique, and other British, French, and Dutch territories in or bordering on the Caribbean Sea.
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RECOMMENDATIONS

While you are away: If you have a pending application for practical training, **travel is NOT recommended**, as United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) may require documents from your U.S. address.

While Traveling: Keep your passport, student visa and Form I-20 in your carry-on bag, never in your checked luggage. You'll need these for inspection when you return to the United States. Stay informed about any international travel advisories or health regulations that might affect your trip.

Upon Returning to the United States: When you arrive at a U.S. port of entry, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer will inspect your documents. Be ready to present your passport, student visa, and I-20. If there's an issue with your documents or status, a CBP officer may issue you a ***Form I-515A***, which allows you to stay in the U.S. for up to 30 days while you fix any problems with your paperwork. Contact your P/DSO to resolve the issue within the 30-day grace period to avoid jeopardizing your status.



CBP DISCRETION I-515A FORM

- US Customs and Border Patrol agents have a wide degree of discretion when determining the admissibility of any individual into the United States. Even if you carry all the required documentation, an officer may still require you to go through secondary screening, where you may be asked additional questions or subject to search.
 - If you are subject to repeated difficulties when entering the United States, you can file an inquiry with the *DHS Traveler Redress Inquiry Program* (DHS TRIP): <https://www.dhs.gov/dhs-trip>
 - **If you do not have a valid travel signature** on your I-20, or you packed it away in your suitcase, or are missing any documents, ask the border officer for an **I-515A form**. This will allow you to enter the country in F-1 status. Remember, this is at the officer's discretion.
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F-1 OR J-1 VISA REVOCATIONS: WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW

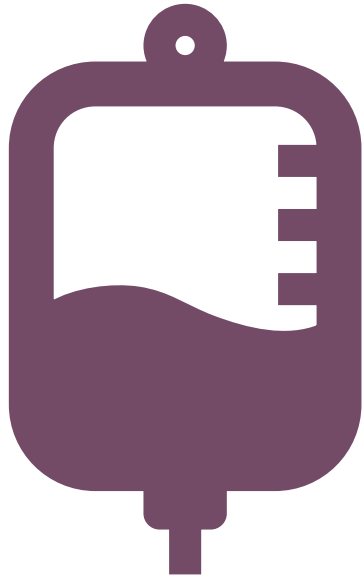
- If the U.S. Department of State (DOS) revokes a F-1 or J-1 visa, they typically notify the visa holder directly via email. These emails are usually sent to the address provided in the DS-160 visa application form.
- Universities are not directly informed of visa revocations by the U.S. Department of State.
- A revoked visa does not always affect a student's ability to stay in the U.S. in valid nonimmigrant status; however, an immigration attorney must be consulted to understand the **potential** for loss of legal status, along with short- and long-term impacts.
- Some students do not become aware of a revoked visa until they attempt to re-enter the U.S. after traveling abroad.

WHEN AN F-1 SEVIS RECORD IS TERMINATED, THE FOLLOWING HAPPENS:

- Student loses all on- and/or off-campus employment authorization.
- Students cannot re-enter the United States on the terminated SEVIS record.
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents may investigate to confirm the student has departed the US.
- Any associated F-2 dependent records are also terminated.
- If the termination is "for any violation of status," there is "no grace period," and "If the student and dependents are still in the United States, the student must either apply for reinstatement, or the student and dependents must leave the United States immediately."

Advising on the details of issues or formulating an immigration strategy is beyond the scope of what a P/DSO can do. In the case of a SEVIS record termination or a visa revocation, the best advice a school can give a student or scholar is to seek the advice of an *experienced immigration attorney* who is also familiar with or can make referrals to find a practitioner with experience in deportation defense.

SEVIS RECORD TERMINATION REASONS



8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(iv) provides that: "an F-1 student who fails to maintain a full course of study without the approval of the DSO or otherwise fails to maintain status is not eligible for an additional period for departure."

This means that the 60-day usual grace period is no longer available and the student must leave immediately.



RECENT CASES

- F1 and J1 students have had their visas revoked for participating in recent protests in the US.
 - These cases are being litigated in the courts because they represent a violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which protects fundamental freedoms, such as religion, speech, press, assembly, and the right to petition the government.
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WHAT CAN YOU DO?



If you have ever been arrested, even if the charges were dropped, we advise that you proactively seek legal counsel from an experienced immigration attorney.



Check your email regularly, including any email accounts you used during your visa application process, to ensure you have not received a visa revocation notice.



If you receive a visa revocation notice, contact our office immediately. We are here to support you and can help you navigate your options.



You may also wish to seek guidance from an experienced immigration attorney. We can provide immigration attorney contact information to assist you.

GET LEGAL ADVICE!

- Since [INA 237\(a\)\(1\)\(B\); 8 USC 1227\(a\)\(1\)\(B\)](#), provides that "Any alien who is present in the United States in violation of this chapter or any other law of the United States, or whose nonimmigrant visa (or other documentation authorizing admission into the United States as a nonimmigrant) has been revoked under section 221(i), is deportable," nonimmigrants in the United States who have received notification that their visa has been revoked, or who are concerned about the impact of a visa revocation on their immigration status, or who have had an immigration benefit denied based on a visa revocation, ***should discuss their situation with an immigration lawyer.*** In any case, *individuals whose visas have been revoked while they are in the United States should always make sure to otherwise maintain all the terms and conditions of their valid nonimmigrant status* during their stay, since failure to maintain status would be an additional ground of removability.
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FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Always discuss your travel plans with your P/DSO, be mindful that the final decision is always yours.
- Take into consideration the current situation and keep yourself informed of any travel restrictions or bans (before and after traveling).
- Help us help you by keeping your current address updated, employer information (if any), and changes in program of studies or discipline.
- Let us know if you plan to travel, give us your departure and return dates, as well as your destination and purpose for traveling; your P/DSO will enter a remark in your SEVIS record so that any CBP officer can read upon accessing your SEVIS record at the POE.
- Have our phone numbers accessible in case you need to contact us at any time while traveling.

QUESTIONS / PREGUNTAS



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